



Courtesy LDS Church
In painting by Gary Smith, Joseph and Emma Smith are portrayed on a sleigh ride with others. Soon after they arrived by sleigh in Kirtland in February 1831, Joseph received revelations calling Edward Partridge as bishop and outlining the law of consecration.

pendence that is suitable for publication. The following was submitted by Don Springer of the Oak Hills Ward, Cedar Mill Oregon Stake.

Spring is just around the corner, and with it comes the resumption of Church softball programs in many areas.

This brings to my mind many fond memories of playing Church softball going back to the 1950s. At that time, two wards that consistently fielded

Salt Lake City.

I grew up in the Fairmont Ward and can remember the excellent, exciting competition we always received from Edgehill, whether we were playing a practice game or in tournament play.

For the past 17 years, I have been involved with the same type of sports program in the Oak Hills Ward in Beaverton, Ore. Each spring, excitement is generated in the ward about the upcoming softball season, often

From the
mailbag



reflecting the successes of a season the year before.

The ward's softball program has been so successful that for the past several years, the ward has had two equally balanced adult softball teams. The teams were put together by a random drawing selection process to avoid hurt feelings or the "stacking" of one team or the other. One team could very well win the stake tournament and the other team finish second or third. In region play, the third-place team in the stake could easily end up as region champion.

Oak Hills' teams have had consistent support from ward members, who attend most of their games in sizable numbers. The ongoing tradition of success has resulted in much positive fellowshipping of both less-active and non-members. The re-

sionary calls and so on payoff to the effort put

There are a couple of wards in our stake — Fairmont and Mountain View — that also have finished ongoing positive efforts, while some others struggle to field teams.

What leads to the found consistently in wards? I believe it goes traditional established standards of excellence. The of a sound program must place: strong support stake and ward leaders, rule and a good place to

A hidden ingredient in culture, level-headed "sports enthusiast," someone in the who has an infectious sports and recognizes that be used as a tool to accomplish things more important winning.

This person would lead the ward sports director would perhaps be called coach. This person needs

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